



Derek Thomas

August 5, 1991 - August 13, 2024

Derek Leeroy Thomas age 33, of Wilmington DE passed away August 13, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. Derek was born in Kansas City, KS.

Derek grew up in a small town in Gardner Kansas, Graduated Gardner High School. Derek wanted to be part of something larger than himself. He decided to serve in the United States Air Force and served multiple tours during operation enduring freedom.

After separating from the service Derek took a year and traveled the world, visiting multiple countries before starting his schooling at Del Tech. Derek graduated the Delaware Tech Paramedic program in 2022 Class 27.

Derek had a kind nurturing personality, sarcastic but loving humor and his ability to take action and respond calmly in difficult challenges exhibited the man his family and loved ones are so proud of.

Dereks dream of being a caregiver was fulfilled when joining Kent County Levy Court Paramedics. In his short time at Kent County prior to diagnoses Derek found his place and home. The love and support provided by Kent Co and the community has touched the hearts of Derek and his family.

Derek left such a lasting impression in the hearts of many people that oddly

enough, one day during chemo treatment, Derek was sitting next to a kind gentleman at the Helen Graham center. The Gentleman told Derek he looked familiar and asked where he knew him from? Derek replied he was not native to Delaware and it must be from Deltech, The Fire Academy or Kent County Paramedics. After some thought, the gentleman said No, that is not it, Years ago, in Kansas, you had came into my granddaughters school, and took pictures of the class for the yearbook. (Derek's first job was with Lifetouch Photography) The Granddaughter had autism. Her grandfather remembered Derek from that day and what a kind soul he was and how patiently he worked with his grand daughter and how wonderfully her school portrait had turned out. It is a small world, meeting her grandfather over 10 years later at a cancer center in Delaware and being told Derek made an impact on his, and his granddaughters life. I wish I remembered the families name.

Derek also enjoyed Hockey, baseball and soccer, Online gaming and spending time with family and friends.

Derek is survived by his parents Darrell and Sandra Thomas, Grandparents Arnelia Mortell, Lois Maichle, Bruce Maichle, Uncle Bruce Machle Jr, Cousins Darian Knox, Tyler Knox, Dakota Knox and Emily Everley.

Derek is preceded in death by his Grandfather Roy Mortell, Sister(Cousin) Cassondra Mortell, Aunt Sheryl Mortell-Benter, Aunt Angela Mortell and Cousin Karley Knox

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Military Honors Service

AUG **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Derek Thomas*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 19, 2024 at 01:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Thomas.*



August 21, 2024 at 12:45 PM



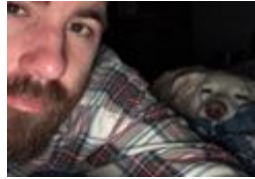
“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Derek Thomas.*



August 19, 2024 at 01:12 PM



“ 79 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 19, 2024 at 09:52 AM